

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02690 01 OF 02 241402Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----118447 241411Z /47
O 241350Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4645

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 02690

NODIS

CHEROKEE--LITERALLY EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM
AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EG US
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO PRESIDENT SADAT

REF: STATE 18379

1. MET WITH SADAT FOR HALF AN HOUR THIS MORNING AT THE
BARRAGES BEFORE BOTH OF US HELICOPTERED TO HELIOPOLIS TO
ATTEND FUNERAL OF VP MUBARAK'S MOTHER-IN-LAW. SADAT WAS
CORDIAL, BUT ALSO SOMBER. HE LOOKED TIRED AND, WHILE HE
CLAIMED RECENT EVENTS HAVE NOT "FRUSTRATED" HIM, THEY
OBVIOUSLY ARE VERY MUCH ON HIS MIND.

2. CONVEYED TO HIM PRESIDENT CARTER'S HOPE THAT IT WILL
BE CONVENIENT TO VISIT OUR PRESIDENT AT CAMP DAVID FOR
DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED. IF AGREEABLE, PRESIDENT
CARTER BELIEVES VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT EARLIEST
POSSIBLE DATES CONVENIENT TO SADAT. I STRESSED NEED TO
TREAT THIS INFORMATION WITH UTMOST CONFIDENTIALITY. ALSO
TRANSMITTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S AND YOUR PERSONAL REGARDS
TO SADAT.

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3. AFTER LISTENING ATTENTIVELY, SADAT SAID THAT HE HAD
MENTIONED TO YOU THAT HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY
OF VISITING THE UNITED STATES FOR A FURTHER TALK WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER. HE DESCRIBED THIS LATEST MESSAGE AS
"SIGNIFICANT IN REGARD TO TIMING." HE HAD NOT HAD MUCH
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER AT ASWAN BECAUSE OF THE SHORTNESS OF THE LAYOVER.

HE AGREED THAT THE VISIT SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE AND LIKED THE IDEA OF HAVING IT AT CAMP DAVID. HE SAID HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN CEREMONIES. ASKED WHEN MIGHT BE CONVENIENT FOR HIM, HIS FIRST REACTION WAS THAT HE WANTED TO THINK ABOUT IT SOME MORE. A FEW MINUTES LATER HE SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH HE HAS A FULL SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS, NEXT WEEK WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HIM IF CONVENIENT TO PRESIDENT CARTER. BY NEXT WEEK, HE POINTED OUT, HE MEANS THE MUSLIM WEEK BEGINNING JANUARY 28. HE ASKED WHAT DATES IN THAT WEEK WOULD BE BEST FOR PRESIDENT CARTER. HE SAID THAT, AS IS HIS CUSTOM, HE WILL MAKE THE TRIP IN TWO DAYS, OVERNIGHTING THE FIRST DAY PROBABLY IN PARIS. SADAT RECOGNIZED NEED FOR STRICT CONFIDENTIALITY AND SAID ONLY VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK WILL AT THIS TIME BE TOLD ABOUT INVITATION.

4. I ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO INQUIRE WHETHER HE HAD COME TO ANY CONCLUSION ABOUT RESUMING THE EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND RECALLED ROY AHERTON HAD REMAINED IN THE AREA FOR THIS PURPOSE. SADAT COMMENTED THAT THE VERSION YOU HAD HANDED TO HIM IS, AS A WHOLE, AGREEABLE. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SOME ELEMENTS IN IT THAT NEED REVISION. HE HAD TURNED IT OVER TO FONMIN KAMEL AND LATTER'S MFA "EXPERTS" TO GO OVER IT IN DETAIL WITH A VIEW TO COMING UP WITH PROPOSALS. HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BEST TO DEFER ANY NEW EFFORT TO
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ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DRAFT DECLARATION UNTIL AFTER HIS PROPOSED VISIT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER NEXT WEEK IN THE UNITED STATES.

5. CONTINUING, SADAT OBSERVED THE ISRAELIS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN THE INITIATIVE. WHILE THE DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS BEING WORKED ON, A CONCURRENT AND PARALLEL EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO WORK ON A MODEL PEACE TREATY. THE INITIATIVE FOR THIS SHOULD COME FROM EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES. WHAT IS NEEDED NOW, SADAT ASSERTED, IS A "DRAMATIC AND COURAGEOUS ACT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES" COMMENSURATE WITH HIS OWN VISIT TO JERUSALEM, WHICH HAD GALVANIZED THE WORLD. HE WAS NOT ASKING U.S. STOP PROVIDING ARMS TO ISRAEL OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. WHAT HE HOPES THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WILLING TO DO IS TO DECLARE A SPECIFIC AMERICAN POSITION AND INFORM THE ISRAELIS THAT, WHILE THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S SECURITY IS UNCHANGED, WE WILL NOT DEFEND ISRAEL'S ACQUISITION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY. IF PRESIDENT CARTER COULD DO THIS, IT WILL DO MUCH TO BRING PEACE TO THE AREA. IF HE CANNOT, SADAT THOUGHT THE AREA (AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT) "IS HEADING FOR

CATASTROPHY."

6. AS WE WERE LEAVING, SADAT NOTED THAT HE HAD SEEN PRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONSIDERING PROVIDING 100 OR 150 F-5ES TO EGYPT. HE SAID THIS SEEMED TO MISS THE POINT. HE DID NOT WANT F-5ES. HE HAD

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 02690

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CHEROKEE-LITERALLY EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM
AMBASSADOR

MENTIONED TO YOU HIS REQUEST FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT
SIMILAR TO THAT BEING GIVEN TO ISRAEL. THIS REQUEST,
HE HAD NOTED, COULD BE USED AS "LEVERAGE" WITH THE
ISRAELIS TO MAKE THEM MORE AMENABLE TO SINCERE NEGOTIA-
TIONS FOR PEACE. SADAT EMPHASIZED THAT HIS BASIC OBJEC-
TIVE REMAINS A PEACE SETTLEMENT.

7. COMMENT: PLEASE ADVISE WHAT DATES NEXT WEEK MIGHT BE
BEST FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO RECEIVE SADAT. I EXPECT TO
SEE THE PRESIDENT TOMORROW MORNING AT 1100 LOCAL (0900
GMT) AT A POLICE ACADEMY CEREMONY. I COULD TAKE THAT
OCCASION TO CONVEY ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. EILTS

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